

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Route 3, Box 191
Tuskegee, Ala. 36083
September 19, 1980

Secretary of State, Edmund Muskie
State Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Muskie:

I have just read in the Montgomery Advertiser of the Korean government prosecuting and planning to execute Kim Dae Jung, a former presidential candidate whose political threat as an opposing candidate in a supposedly democratic election caused the incumbent, Park, to have him imprisoned. The present government, which continues to be terribly repressive with its martial law, denial of labor rights, political imprisonments is accusing him of trying to violently overthrow the government, based on the fact that there were uprisings in the country last spring. In such an undemocratic, totalitarian system, as long as there is human spirit left, there will be uprisings. The same is true in El Salvador. Because of the extreme repression there, Archbishop Romero, just before his assassination, had written President Carter, urging the United States not to send funds to the government there, funds which would be supporting that repression.

I will never agree to our country's sending money to countries where democratic rights are flagrantly denied. How is the government in those countries any better than a communist government which acts in the same repressive way?

warn Korea that we will

I urge the United States ~~severe~~ cut off all funding and military support if Kim Dae Jung is executed; our verbal protests, according to the article, were to absolutely no avail.

Also, I have not heard for some time about Kim Chi Ha, the Korean poet who has been imprisoned for so many years for his dissent from the dictatorial rule in his homeland. Could you please inform me as to his status? OO Chung Lee, some years ago the president of Church Women United there, had been under arrest for similarly speaking out for people's rights. I mention her as another well known person who ~~never~~ would have been arrested, among thousands of others who have been and some who have been executed. Again we have no business supporting such regimes, and if it is for "business"—the many American companies which profit off the cheap labor, then American policy must change, putting priority on people over profit, the ways of life over the ways of death.

I ask that this be an immediate priority, acting to save Kim Dae Jung's life and implementing policy based on human rights in all our relations.

cc: President Carter
Rep. Bill Nichols
Sen. Howell Heflin
Sen. Donald Stewart
Montgomery Advertiser

Sincerely,

Judith C. Cumbee